

REMARKS

Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-36 and 105-164 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 13, 19-22, 27, 29, 34-36, 107, 108, 110-113, 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, 125, 126, 131, 133, 135, 138, 142, 144-148, 151-158, and 160-162 have been amended. Claims 3, 16-18, 23-26, 28, 109, 114, 117, 118, 120, 121, 124, 149, 150, 159, and 164 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 3. Claims 4 and 13 have been amended to be dependent on claim 1. Claims 19-22 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 17. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 16. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 28. Claims 34-36 have been amended to be dependent on claim 29. Claims 107 and 108 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16, 105 and 106. Claims 110 –113 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. Claims 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, 125, 126, 131, 133, 135, 138, 142, and 144-148 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. Claims 151-158 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16, 105, and 149. Claims 160 –162 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 159. No new matter has been added.

Allowable claims

In section 7 of the Action, the Examiner states that claims 3-8, 14, 19-22, 27, 29-33, 107, 108, 110-113, 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, 125-148, 151-158, and 160-162 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have complied with the request of the Examiner.

In particular: The language of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 3

has been canceled. Claim 4 has been amended so that now claims 4-8 all depend on amended claim 1. No rewriting was needed for claim 1 in view of the new language of amended claim 1. Claims 19-22 have been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of claims 16 and 17. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 16. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 28. No rewriting was needed for claims 30-33 in view of the new language of claim 29. Claims 107 and 108 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16, 105 and 106. Claims 110 -113 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. Claims 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, and 125, and 126 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claims 127-130 in view of the new language of claim 126. Claims 131 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claim 132 in view of the new language of claim 131. Claims 133 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claim 134 in view of the new language of claim 133. Claims 135 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claims 136 and 137 in view of the new language of claim 135. Claim 138 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claims 139-141 in view of the new language of claim 138. Claim 142 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. No rewriting was needed for claim 143 in view of the new language of claim 142. Claims 144-148 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 105. Claims 151-158 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16, 105, and 149. Claims 160 -162 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 16 and 159.

Therefore, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-8, 14, 19-22, 27, 29-33, 107, 108, 110-113, 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, 125-148, 151-158, and 160-162. Further, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 9-13, 15, 34-36, and 163 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable claims.

Claims rejections

In section 2 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, and 36 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chia et al. Without going into the merits of the Examiner's contention as to whether Chia et al. anticipates the above claims or not, the Applicants note that claims 16 and 28 have been canceled. With reference to claims 1, 2, 15, and 36, the Applicants submit that the above amendments have put the claims in condition for allowance, thus overcoming the rejection of the Examiner. The above amendments are in no way to be treated as an admission that Chia et al. anticipates the above claims.

In section 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 9-11, 13, 23-25, 35, 159, 163 and 164 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chia et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,309,704 to Grando. Without going into the merits of the Examiner's contention as to whether Chia et al. and Grando render the above claims obvious or not, the Applicants note that claims 23-25 and 159 have been canceled. With reference to claims 9-11, 13, 35, and 163, the Applicants submit that the above amendments have put the claims into condition for allowance, thus overcoming the rejection of the Examiner. The above amendments and cancellations are in no way to be treated as an admission that Chia et al. and Grando render the above claims obvious.

In section 4 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 12, 26 and 34 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chia et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,285,625 to Ofrat. Without going into the merits of the Examiner's contention as to whether Chia et al. and Ofrat render the above claims obvious or not, the Applicants note that claim 26 has been canceled. With reference to claim 12 and 34, the Applicants submit that the above amendments have put the claims into condition for allowance, thus overcoming the rejection of the Examiner. The above amendments and cancellations are in no way to be treated as an admission that Chia et al. and Ofrat render the above claims obvious.

In section 5 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 17, 18, 105, 109, 114, 117, 118, 120,

121, 124, 149, and 150 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chia et al. in view of K Mart Rope Chain Item # 76617103508. Without going into the merits of the Examiner's contention as to whether Chia et al. and K Mart Rope Chain Item # 76617103508 render the above claims obvious or not, the Applicants note that claims 17, 18, 105, 109, 114, 117, 118, 120, 121, 124, 149, and 150 have been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of the Examiner moot. The above amendments and cancellations are in no way to be treated as an admission that Chia et al. and K Mart Rope Chain Item # 76617103508 render the above claims obvious.

In section 6 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 106 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chia et al. in view of Wards D45-97384007&18" 2-5 mm. Without going into the merits of the Examiner's contention as to whether Chia et al. and Wards D45-97384007&18" 2-5 mm render the above claim obvious or not, the Applicants note that claim 106 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of the Examiner moot. Cancellation of claim 106 is in no way to be treated as an admission that Chia et al. and Wards D45-97384007&18" 2-5 mm render claim 106 obvious.

* * *

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4-15, 19-22, 27, 29-36, 107, 108, 110-113, 115, 116, 119, 122, 123, 125-148, 151-158, and 160-163 are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

May 6, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Susan Papp
(Name of Person Depositing)

Susan Papp
Signature
05/06/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

- Petition for 1-month extension of time
- Check in the amount of \$ 60
- Petition for 31 additional independent claims
- Check in the amount of \$ 3,100
- Postcard